

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTIETH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

30 November 1956

Present

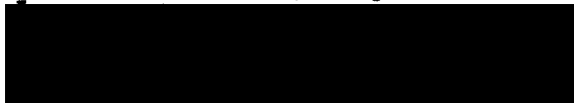
Members: Royal Wald, State  
Richard Bauer, Army  
John Shearer, Navy



man, CIA

25X1A

Consultants: Virgil O. Johnson, Army  
William T. Hutson, Navy



25X1A

1. The 80th meeting of the Exploitation Subcommittee convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 79th meeting were approved with the following emendations and comment:

Army: Page 3, first paragraph: Army emphasized that it is interested in a continued exploitation of both the Russian and Chinese versions of Chinese laws of military significance as the differences are frequently of importance.

Third paragraph, last line: Should read "coordination especially with 6004th AISS would be of value."

CIA: Bottom of page 3: Should read "information on Chinese personalities at the provincial level."

2. Review of the Scientific and Technical Program

State: Mr. Wald said there is a general feeling of satisfaction with the program. Even though State's interest in scientific and technical information is marginal, it is often of considerable interest in certain aspects for NIS studies. In this connection State is interested in data dealing with top level personnel, and shifts of such personnel within scientific organizations; data dealing with the educational field including teaching techniques; technical changes in expansion of plants; Sino-Soviet and Satellite agreements on exchange of scientific and technical information; Soviet aid to China such as reactors or similar equipment; and coverage of technical advances in agriculture.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

The Chairman asked whether State had any reaction to the current scientific and technical report as such.

Mr. Wald stated that they would like to see it continued.

The Chairman pointed out that most of the items mentioned would be covered by FDD in other reports. For example, personnel organization shifts would appear in the political report, and education in the education report.

25X1A

██████████ stated that he agreed with the State suggestion and that he would like to see this information carried in the news section of the Scientific Information Report.

The Chairman said that there would be difficulty in separating scientific education from the education reports on the USSR and China on an over-all basis. He asked what the reaction was of the people that are studying education as a whole. He commented that State would be one with primary concern.

Mr. Wald said it is immaterial to State which publications the material appears in. State is only concerned that it be covered somewhere. If it should be left out of the China review, the consumers should be notified that further information is available in another publication. Mr. Wald suggested that it would be helpful if FDD published a list of its reports and the scope of their coverage for the information of all the analysts.

The Chairman stated that FDD will draw up a list of its current reports with a description of each. If members will notify ██████████ x591 as to the number of copies of the report desired they will be supplied when the list is completed.

██████████ added that some word on the nature of sources would also be helpful in such a list, especially indicating whether monographs are included.

The Chairman stated that, in clarification of the remarks of ██████████ and Mr. Wald, scientific organizations and personalities are completely reported in the Scientific Information Report (SIR). Education in the USSR appears in the Semiannual Report on Education in the USSR, and education in China is carried in the weekly China report. This covers the information in question.

Navy: Mr. Shearer stated that Navy was very satisfied with the SIR and felt that the subjects were well covered. Navy had no suggestions to add to the program.

Army: Mr. Johnson stated that he was impressed with the quality of selection of reported material. Regarding selective abstracting, Mr. Johnson said that his organization had made an evaluation of the FDD

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

effort. The subject of anthrax was selected as an example. They made a thorough check back to the original language material and were very much surprised to find how thoroughly this subject was covered. Although there were a few miscellaneous items that were not very pertinent to the Soviet capability, no item of importance had been missed. They feel that the available journals are reviewed and abstracted by officers knowledgeable in the field. Mr. Johnson said they were very much in favor of continuing the program on the present selective basis.

25X1A

CIA: [REDACTED] stated that CIA's position is unchanged regarding the preference of cover to cover abstracting of a selected number of journals, rather than selective abstracting of all available material. He recommended, however, that we have a further trial period of the current program before reopening the subject. As far as the product is concerned, [REDACTED] stated that in general the selective process is competently carried out and is giving a good performance. He continued that if one is going to use this publication as source material then the format becomes an important factor and the bulk of criticism at this time is derived from the form and style of presentation. The remaining area of criticism is concerned with a tendency to put into the report statements by analysts without so clearly indicating them as such, and hence it becomes difficult for the substantive analysts to tell whether it is the Russian statement or a document officer's comment. While it is good to have such comments, they must be clearly indicated as such. This is particularly true in the highlights section and in the lead lines.

25X1A

25X1A

[REDACTED] continued that certain changes in format would make the document far more useful for the working files. It is difficult for an analyst to find a specific type of item. They feel that this is because of the format of separating items of research and news according to category of intelligence interest. [REDACTED] suggested that the form be revamped and that all items be classified and arranged by scientific disciplines rather than by broad groups of priority intelligence interest. Another criticism arose because there was nothing to connect the statement in the highlights with the article from which it was derived. He stated they would like consideration of a system of indexing for the highlights.

25X1A

25X1A

[REDACTED] then turned to the subject of abstracts and said that it would help if consideration were given to adapting a more conventional form for abstracts covering formal research and technological developments, using a format similar to that used by commercial abstracts, i.e., title, author, institute, and a complete journal reference. It would be very helpful also if, insofar as practical, consideration were given to perforating of each page so that it could be torn out easily. Finally, [REDACTED] said that in the present format something was lost, namely certain types of papers that used to be reported in toto, for example, the annual report of the President of the Academy of Sciences. This has stopped and instead sections are being divided up with no way of the analyst knowing what has been left out. [REDACTED] asked consideration of reverting to the old method.

25X1A

25X1A

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

The Chairman asked for comment of the other members, particularly with regard to the organization of the report by discipline.

Mr. Johnson differed with [REDACTED] suggestion because of the requirements of his agency. His problem, he said, is that each analyst must cover a broad scientific and technical field and he would not have the time or the means to read each section of each scientific discipline in order to get the information he needed. Hence, the conventional scientific approach to it would be much more cumbersome and time-consuming. However, he thought that a more conventional form of listing the reference to the abstract without a title or lead line would be satisfactory.

25X1A

Mr. Hutson of Navy concurred with Army's statement.

25X1A

[REDACTED] then suggested that a liberal cross-reference be devised as a compromise.

The Chairman suggested that FDD could get together with [REDACTED] and see what type of breakdown he would like to see for cross-index purposes and then try to work out a pilot plan operation to see what is really involved. The end result could then be brought before the Subcommittee for review and discussion.

25X1A

Mr. Bauer stated that the present approach is preferable from Army's point of view.

25X1A

[REDACTED] of NSA said that NSA is happy with the current SIR format and subject headings. She agreed with [REDACTED] that it would be helpful to have some cross-referencing.

25X1A

The Chairman thought the details would have to be worked out separately and tried out in operation to determine the amount of work involved and whether this would mean something else would have to suffer.

25X1A

[REDACTED] stated that it appeared that a change of format would not be made.

The Chairman said that the majority of the members seem to prefer the present format for their intelligence needs but have no objection to the cross-referencing. Indexing of the highlights will not involve any great problem. Formalization of the abstract similarly should not present much of a problem.

25X1A

[REDACTED] said he would like to have an agreement that we could presume that any statement in the report is from the original article unless so set off as comment.

The Chairman asked whether Army had any objection to this.

Mr. Johnson said no, but he would not want to discourage the exploiter from making appropriate comments at the end of an article.

25X1A

██████████ said that comments are very much in order provided they are so identified.

The Chairman said that he would examine the feasibility of perforating the pages and call ██████████ regarding his findings. 25X1A

At this point the Chairman handed out a current listing of the Soviet scientific and technical publications now received in FDD. He suggested consideration of the possibility of reviewing the current reporting programs once a year instead of twice a year, as they were now out of the formative stage. If this were agreeable he suggested that the Subcommittee might meet once a month in 1957 instead of every two weeks.

3. The meeting adjourned at 1550. The agenda for the next meeting on 14 December 1956 will be: a) Army and Air Force comments on the scientific and technical program; b) review of the Western World program. The meeting will be held at 1400 hours in Room 1121 M Bldg.

████████████████████

Secretary

25X1A